Mrs. Mary Stella Hardy was teacher.

Wisner continued to grow and develop during the time of 1910-1920. People were amazed and startled as they saw the second car in Franklin Parish, which was owned by Mr. Tom Gilbert. New homes were built and among them was another Gilbert home, presently owned by Mr. Riley Graham.

The Methodist Church, built in 1915, was the first white church of Wisner. New Light Baptist Church was the first black church and was built in about 1910.

School grew in size and moved from the school on Kiper's lot to the Lois Grayson house. In the late teens as the number of students increased, the one-room school was petitioned off with curtains to make a two-room school. This carried the children to the seventh grade. If they wanted more education, they had to move away from Wisner.

Disaster hit Wisner in many ways during this time. A hurricane and cyclone hit the whole parish in the early teens. World War I influenced the people with many men having to leave home to serve their country. A flu epidemic, killing many people, broke out in 1918. They were willing to try anything to prevent illness. A common cure was to put sulphur in their shoes.

In the late teens Pritchard Wheeler Lumber Co., came to Wisner with a sawmill. Later this company sold to Fisher Lumber Co., a division of General Motors in 1917. This opened the south end of Wisner with the Mill Town section and many colored quarter houses. The mill commissary and employee's homes were located in the southern part of Wisner on Highway 15. Employees who came to Wisner with the mill and who lived in the Mill Town section were Risher, Lee, Kadel, Lenoir, McDaniel, Martin, Laughlin, Carroll, Pharis, Lyons and Morgan. Dr. D.D. Gill was the company doctor for the Fisher Lumber Company.

Dr. R.L. Segrest was one of the doctors practicing general medicine during this time; he also owned a drugstore. His daughter, Mrs. H. Allen Cruce, now lives in the home that he built prior to 1915. Mr. Edgar Ewing was pharmacist, and later opened his own drugstore.

The Franklin State Bank then added to Wisner's development in 1920 with the Wisner Branch of the Franklin State Bank.

1920-1930

Everybody has heard about the Roaring 20's, and Wisner was no exception.

In 1922, the first brick school was built containing grades 1-12. There were 150 children enrolled, but there was no graduating class in 1922. The first graduating class was in 1924. It consisted of four girls and four boys. They were Russell Meacom, Walter C. Knotts, John Shipp, Alvin McNeal, Georgie McDaniel, Minnie Flowers, Sara Patten, and Helen Glasgow.

Buses with wooden bodies carried the children to school as the enrollment increased. One of the school bus drivers was Mr. Mitt Martin who also served as janitor. He had to make wood fires early in the morning before making his bus run.

The 20's were not lacking any enthusiasm in sports. In 1922, Mr. Howard M. Leslie, principal, gathered together about 15 country boys who had never seen a football and developed one of the winningest teams in North Louisiana that year. Later in 1933-34 the team met victory again. The football field was located behind Mrs. E.B. Knotts' house. Tennis was a big pasttime too! There were two tennis courts located in front of the Frank Spann house.

Wisner grew fast in the 1920's. Maybe it was because of the low interest rate of 2 percent from Franklin State Bank. You can tell by looking at dates on main street that many businesses were started at that time. Those buildings were dates are Roach's and T.B. Gilbert's. Many men bought supplies at T.B. Gilbert's or Kiper's. Remember those nights when you and your date stopped in at Pop Kennerly's for ice cream? Everyone certainly enjoyed the amphitheatre, where Mr. Wardell Head's cement plant is now located, or Mr. Tucker's first theater downtown by Ezell's for a movie. Those were the good old days.

The Metropolis Bending Company brought much excitement and progress to Metropolis. It made the curved wood for tops of cars and furniture. There were also several "Dummy Lines" running from Wisner to the rural areas, transporting timber from the wooded areas to the mill and the railroad.

Life was much easier for those who lived in the 20's. Cars were more plentiful in those times. In 1927 Wisner Motor Parts was started. It was a Ford dealership that sold Ford supplies until 1931.

Refrigerators that made their own ice and electric lights were conveniences that came with electricity in the 1920's. Of course at first the electricity only operated from 5 a.m. - 11 p.m. If you did not have your own generator, you still needed to buy blocks of ice from the ice house by the railroad or from a truck that made daily deliveries.

Telephones hit Wisner on February 5, 1929, with fifty-eight phones. The first call was made by little Miss Dixie Gilbert to her father. The second call was made from Jitney Jungle by a young man to get a date. Mr. J.E. Spann made the first long distance call. The operator was Mrs. Alice Turner. The telephone office was located on the corner across from where the bank is today. This served as a telephone office as well as a home for Mrs. Turner and her family.

Here are some of the first telephone numbers:

Winnsboro Wholesale, No. 1; Wisner High School, No. 9; Cannon's, No. 12; and Methodist Church, No. 56.

There was a big variety of doctors in Wisner at this time. Some of these were: Dr. W.A. Mecom, Dr. V.H. Mecom, Dr. R.L. Segrest, and a dentist, Dr. Fairbanks.

On November 25, 1923, at the close of a revival meeting, some resident Baptists desired to organize a church for Wisner. Through time and effort, worship services were organized which met one Sunday out of every month in the school building. In 1926 a church was built with Rev. Amos Oyer, a former missionary to Africa, as the first pastor.

Unfortunately the 20's did not end as brightly as they had begun. In 1927 there was the big flood. At the deepest part of the flood, water extended up to Central Baptist Church and went though the hills of Columbia. On the south end it extended to Elam; north side, just to south of Gilbert and to the east of town, up to the lagoons. The town of Wisner was not under water itself, but the ditches were full and running over. A Model-T Ford, with railroad wheels owned by the Metropolis Bending Company, had to be used by the Red Cross to carry mail and supplies.

In the last 20's the big fire took place. It burned a theater, the hotel, and a grocery store. After this fire, the town bought a fire truck from Wisner Motor Company.

1930-1940

Wisner was feeling the growth of the 20's and now had a need to incorporate the town of Wisner. The school built in the 1920's which had grades 1-12, was expanding so rapidly that there was need of a new building. In 1930 the Wisner Elementary building was built. It provided space for grades 1-8, with a home economics department and a big, beautiful auditorium with seating space for more than 500 people. The auditorium also served as a gymnasium, one of the largest and best of North Louisiana and one of the two in Franklin Parish. Around 1934, the first school building was built for the black children. Prior to this time, all of their education was obtained in church buildings. Mr. Jesse Ernest Jr., was hired as principal.

Sports were very popular at WHS, and in 1933, the football team was undefeated. In 1934 they were parish champs. The girls and boys also had active basketball teams.

The following 10 years -- the Depression -- were hard times for the people of Wisner. There were mortgage foreclosures, crop plow-ups, commodity distributions, and

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relief checks. Times were so hard that the people could not afford to buy store-bought clothing or sometimes even the material to make their clothes; therefore, most of the clothes were homemade out of feed sacks and flour sacks.

During these years the streets of Wisner, which had formerly been all dirt or gravel roads, were blacktopped. In 1933, the Fisher Lumber Company closed its main sawmill but maintained its business offices. During the 30's, Mr. Tucker built a new movie theater in downtown Wisner. This provided many hours of entertainment for the people. Up until these years, all homes were built of timber, much of it prepared in the local sawmill. The first brick home was built in the early 30's by Mr. Wilson and it belonged to his daughter, Mrs. J.C. Brewer Sr.

1940-1950

During the 1940's there was not much progress in Wisner for this was the time of World War II. It was the time when all men had to leave their families and homes and go to the defense of our country. One hundred and sixty-four men left to go overseas, both the young and old. Ten of these gave their life. In 1945 the war was over and there were many happy men returning to the town of Wisner.

Another exciting event happened during this time. The Wisner bank was robbed in September of 1945. The robbers set fire to a barn at the south end of the town to distract the people while they committed their crime. Most of the money was stolen and to this day neither the money nor the robbers have been found.

In the late 40's, the population explosion made its way into the life of America. War babies were being born all over the United States. Maybe it was for this reason. Dr. Jones felt he needed to build a hospital. Today this hospital is known as the Rosalie Nursing Home. During this time the Wisner newspaper kept everyone up-to-date on the happenings of the world. This newspaper was called the Wisner Herald. We have found out that this paper dates back at least to 1947 when it sold for 5 cents. Mr. Nassen was the editor and publisher. The newspaper office was located somewhere in the area where the bait stand is now.

1950-1960

A need for better education was felt by the community. Wards I and II combined and built a school for the blacks, Wisner-Gilbert High School. It now serves as Wisner Junior High School.

As the population of Wisner grew, new houses appeared. Builders Adcock and Boothe built and sold houses on the north end of town.

Churches felt the population explosion, too. Expansion and modernization were needed. First Baptist built a big modern building on Highway 15. South Central Baptist Church also built a new building.

Scott Truck and Tractor Company built a store in Wisner during this time to meet the needs of a farming population. Later in the 50's this was changed to Shipp Chevrolet Company.

On the west end of Ward I, the scenery changed as the dam was built on Turkey Creek. This dam raised the water level and greatly changed the looks of a known landmark.

It seems that wars have always influenced the economy and growth of every community. The Korean Conflict, during the 50's, was the reason that many young men served their country.

Any town the size of Wisner certainly needs protection and a place for the town council to meet. Therefore, the present town hall was built providing space for a jail, business office and meeting space. A branch library was in one of the rooms.

The minnow hatchery, owned by Mr. McGehee was started in 1959 with 1800 acres in ponds, and has now grown to 2400 acres. It is now owned by Pete Haring. This establishment is the second largest minnow hatchery in the world.

1960-1970

The 1960's was the time of the generation gap. Boys began to let their hair grow and girls shortened their dresses.

Times were changing all over the world. Wisner was also affected by the new changes, as we began to search for new and better ideas that would help profit our community.

Even though the Vietnam War was going on at this time, it did not stop Wisner from expanding. The post office, high school, soybean elevator, and Methodist Church were built during the 60's. The new and modern post office was a real convenience because of the big, spacious rooms. No longer did the mail have to be sorted in small, cramped rooms used in the previous years. The new high school, built during this time, has the second largest gym in Franklin Parish. Wisner became an industrial town with the building of the soybean elevator, which is located on the north end of town. The United Methodist Church was built in the early 1900's. Later that year it was destroyed by fire and a new beautiful building replaced it. All of these new developments have helped Wisner keep a pace with the changing times.

"Save our Natural Resources" was a motto started during the 60's. Wisner is very proud of the Boy Scout Troop of America, along with Mr. Cruce, for continuing a Soil Conservation Park. It was the first to be planted in the U.S.

Wisner really spread within its incorporated limits. The section of town surrounding the Tims' seemed to have sprung up overnight. After the Tims' built in a cotton patch, 18 new homes appeared within a short period of time.

Wisner will remember the 1960's for the progress and changes it brought to make a more modern and industrial town.

1970's

In the 70's great changes have been made and are still taking place in Wisner. In the fall of 1970, our schools were integrated. This caused all children of both races to go to either Wisner Elementary, Wisner Junior High (formerly Wisner-Gilbert High), or Wisner High School. This caused the closing of Wisner Elementary School which was attended by the blacks.

During that time Wisner residents began taking advantage of a new federal housing program. Many FHA-235 houses were built in the school addition for whites and later many of the same program houses were built on the west side of Wisner for black residents.

A great tornado struck the north end of Wisner in the spring of '72. It destroyed several homes, damaged others, and tore down telephone poles. During 1973 and 1974, the weather caused hardships for the farmers in this area. Much farmland went under water due to large amounts of rainwater. Many roads were closed and homes were flooded.

The businesses of Wisner made several changes. The Wisner Branch of Franklin State Bank moved to its beautiful new building. The library moved from Town Hall to the old post office building. Cannon's Dry Goods and Grocery closed after fifty years of business in Wisner. A new telephone office opened which gave the residents the opportunity to use direct dialing. The Western Auto Store was enlarged from one small store to a modern large store.

Probably the largest building project undertaken was the Mary Anna Nursing Home built by Carl D. Batey. This is located on the north end of Wisner. It has facilities for approximately one hundred patients and gives many residents employment opportunities.

The First Pentecostal Church built a beautiful building on the south end of Wisner. First Baptist Church opened The Red Barn, a recreational building for activities of the youth. A new tennis court was constructed.

A new police station located in the center of Wisner was built.

The police jury was instrumental in obtaining funds to construct a recreational area on Turkey Creek. This provides picnic areas and camping facilities for fishermen, hunters and families seeking family recreations.